

Application No. 09/481,572
Amdt Dated: June 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (New) A method of inhibiting T-type calcium channels in a patient's cells comprising administering to a patient in need of such inhibition a composition comprising an amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum* effective to inhibit the movement of calcium ions into cells and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

46. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein said patient is suffering from chronic heart failure, congestive heart failure, ischemic condition, arrhythmia, angina pectoris, hypertension, hypoinsulinemia, hyperinsulinemia, diabetes mellitus, hyperaldosteronemia, epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease or preterm labor.

47. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein said patient is a human.

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48. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said effective amount is about 0.05 mg to 500 mg per kg body weight of said patient.

49. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said extract of *Hypericum perforatum* is a methanol or ethanol extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

50. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the health disorder is chronic heart failure.

51. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is congestive heart failure.

52. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is ischemic condition.

53. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is arrhythmia.

54. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is angina pectoris.

55. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is hypertension.

56. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is hypoinsulinemia.

57. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is hyperinsulinemia.

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58. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is hyperaldosteronemia.

59. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is epilepsy.

60. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is a neurogenerative disease.

61. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said health disorder is preterm labor.

62. (New) A method according to claim 45, wherein one or more components of said extract other than hypericin contribute to the inhibition of the T-cell calcium current.

63. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said composition consists essentially of an effective amount of an extract of *Hypericum perforatum*.

64. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said effective amount is about 0.5 mg to 50 mg per kg body weight of said patient.